

REMARKS

Summary of Interview with the Examiner

On October 24, 2003, the Applicants' Representative, Mr. Andrew Merriam, and Examiner Mathieu Vargot conducted a personal interview to further prosecution in the instant case. During the interview, Mr. Merriam brought to the Examiner's attention U.S. patent no. 6,194,525 B1, to Ortiz et al., and European patent publication EP 0844286 A1, to Morton International.

Mr. Merriam pointed out that Ortiz et al. discloses compositions having a crystalline unsaturated monomer, at column 5, lines 12-33, which monomer is excluded from the powder used to make the product instantly claimed because it would cause powder storage problems and, as a result, would give a powder impossible to spray during coating. See the instant specification at page 3, lines 11-18 and instant Example 4P, in the Table at the bottom of page 20 (triallyl cyanurate monomer), and in the Table on page 21 (solid clump after ½ hour). Accordingly, the monomer of Ortiz et al. would destroy the storage and coating operability of a prepolymer containing powder coating, such as that instantly claimed, and thereby Ortiz et al. teaches away from the instantly claimed invention.

Mr. Merriam pointed out that EP 0844286 A1 fails to disclose powder coatings on molds or powder coatings coated with fill resins so that the powder coating and the fill resin are integral when cured, as is instantly claimed. "Integral" means that to some extent powder coating and fill resin will cross the interface of the two. See the instant specification at, for example, page 16, lines 27-28. Accordingly, EP 0844286 A1 does not anticipate or render obvious the coating of the instantly claimed invention.

Several proposals for claim amendments were also presented. Examiner Vargot agreed to consider all arguments and amendments. Mr. Merriam wishes to thank Examiner Vargot for extending the courtesy of a personal interview.

Support for Claim Amendments

The amendment to claim 17 incorporates into claim 17 the subject matter of claim 1, which was canceled by preliminary amendment. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 4, lines 14-26, page 14, lines 1-7, page 15, lines 2-9 and page 15, lines 28 to page 16, line 28. In addition, the amendment to claim 17 better defines the unsaturated polyester of the instant invention by reciting at least partially crystalline polyesters, blends of crystalline and amorphous polyesters, and active hydrogen containing polyesters. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 30-34 and at page 8, lines 12-15.

Support for new claim 20 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 12-15.

Support for new claim 21 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 9, lines 14-24.

Support for new claim 22 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 10, lines 10 to 30.

Support for new claim 23 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 18 to 27.

Support for new claim 24 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 10-16.

Support for new claim 25 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 10, lines 28-32.

Support for new claim 26 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 4, line 33 to page 5, line 10.

Support for new claim 27 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 13, lines 15-18 and at page 16, lines 19 to 23.

Claim 17, as amended, and new claims 20-27 stand pending and contain no new matter.

Response to Rejections

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richart, US 5,304,332. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Richart fails to disclose any unsaturated polyester that is partially or wholly crystalline, as is instantly recited, and fails to disclose any unsaturated polyester having from 50 to 100 mole %, based on the total number of polyol monomers used to form the unsaturated polyester, of its hydroxyl functionality supplied by active hydrogen containing polyol monomers, as is instantly recited. Richart also fails to provide on-mold powder coatings, i.e. cured on an open mold surface. For these reasons, the rejection is improper.

Applicant's respectfully request the reconsideration and the withdrawal of all rejections over Richart.

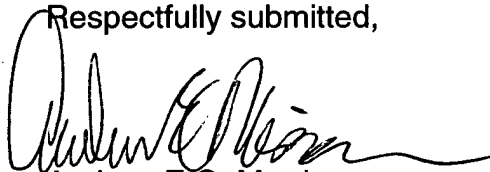
Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the instant claims are currently in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

No fees are believed owing. If any fees are found owing, please charge Applicants' deposit account no. 18-1850.

If for any reason the Examiner has questions or concerns, he is urged to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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